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United States of America

8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10  
11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. 2:20-CR-0211-TLN

12 Plaintiff,

STIPULATION AND JOINT REQUEST FOR  
PROTECTIVE ORDER; PROTECTIVE ORDER

13 v.

14 MATTHEW M. PIERCEY,

15 Defendants.

16  
17 I. **STIPULATION**

18 1. Plaintiff United States of America (“government”), by and through its counsel of record,  
19 and defendant Matthew M. Piercy (“defendant”), by and through his counsel of record (collectively, the  
20 “parties”), for the reasons set forth below, hereby stipulate, agree, and jointly request that the Court enter  
21 a Protective Order in this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials containing  
22 personal identifying information (“PII”) of real persons and other confidential information of victims,  
23 witnesses, and third parties.

24 2. As part of its investigation in this case, the government is in possession of materials  
25 relating to the charges against the defendant, including voluminous bank records, business records,  
26 emails, phone tolls and account information, and other evidence that contains PII and other confidential  
27 information for real persons, including, among other things, personal names, addresses, Social Security  
28 numbers, and dates of birth. These real persons include victims, witnesses, and/or third parties to this

1 case. The government seeks to provide these materials to counsel for the defendant.

2       3.     The purpose of the proposed Protective Order is to prevent the unauthorized  
3 dissemination, distribution, or use of materials containing the PII and confidential personal information  
4 of others. If this information is disclosed without protective measures, or to defendant without  
5 limitation, it will risk the privacy and security of the people to whom the information relates. The  
6 information could itself be used to further criminal activity if improperly disclosed or used. The United  
7 States has ongoing statutory and ethical obligations to protect victims.

8       4.     Due to the nature of this case, including the extensive financial records involved, PII  
9 makes up a significant part of the discovery materials, and this information in many instances has  
10 evidentiary value itself. The large quantity of privacy-protected information would be difficult or time-  
11 consuming to redact. Further, if the government were to attempt to redact all this information, the  
12 defense would receive a set of discovery that would be confusing and difficult to understand, and could  
13 inhibit prompt and just resolution of the case.

14      5.     Accordingly, the parties jointly request a Protective Order that will permit the  
15 government to produce discovery that is unredacted, but preserves the privacy and security of victims,  
16 witness, and third parties. The parties agree that the following conditions, if ordered by the Court in the  
17 proposed Protective Order, will serve the government's interest in maintaining the privacy and security  
18 of victims and third parties, while permitting the Defense Team to understand the United States'  
19 evidence against the defendants.

20      6.     This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of  
21 Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

22           **II. PROPOSED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

23           **A. Protected Materials**

24      7.     This Order pertains to all discovery provided or made available to defense counsel in this  
25 case (hereafter, collectively "Protected Materials").

26      8.     For purposes of the Protective Order, the term "Personal Identifying Information" ("PII")  
27 includes any information within the definition of a "means of identification" under 18 U.S.C. §  
28 1028(d)(7) or any information within the definition of an "access device" under 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(1).

1       9. To the extent that notes are made that memorialize, in whole or in part, the PII in any  
2 Protected Materials, or to the extent that copies are made for authorized use by members of the Defense  
3 Team, such notes, copies, or reproductions become Protected Materials, subject to the Protective Order  
4 and must be handled in accordance with the terms of the Protective Order.

5       **B. Defense Team**

6       10. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Counsel” refers to the defendant’s counsel  
7 of record.

8       11. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Team” refers to (1) the defendant’s counsel  
9 of record, (2) other attorneys at defense counsel’s law firm or defense organization who may be  
10 consulted regarding case strategy in the above-captioned matter, (3) defense investigators who are  
11 assisting defense counsel with this case, (4) retained experts or potential experts, and (5) paralegals,  
12 legal assistants, and other support staff to defendant’s counsel of record providing assistance on this  
13 case. The term “Defense Team” does not include defendant, the defendant’s family, or other associates  
14 of the defendant.

15       12. Defense Counsel must provide a copy of this Order to all members of the Defense Team.  
16 Defense Counsel must obtain written acknowledgement from members of the Defense Team that they  
17 are bound by the terms and conditions of this Protective Order, prior to providing any Protected  
18 Materials to the members of the Defense Team. The written acknowledgement need not be disclosed or  
19 produced to the United States unless ordered by the Court.

20       **C. Disclosure of Protected Materials**

21       13. No person or party shall use any Protected Materials or information derived from  
22 Protected Materials produced in this action for any purpose other than use in the above-captioned case.  
23 All Protected Materials shall be used solely for the purpose of conducting and preparing for pre-trial,  
24 post-trial, and appellate proceedings (both direct and collateral) and in this criminal action for no other  
25 purposes whatsoever, and shall not be used for the economic or other benefit of the defendants, or any  
26 third party. Protected Materials may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the  
27 conditions described in this Order.

28       14. Defendant may review Protected Materials in this case only in the presence of a member

1 of the Defense Team, and his Defense Counsel shall ensure that defendant is never left alone with any  
2 Protected Information. Defendant may not copy, keep, maintain, or otherwise possess any of such  
3 Protected Materials at any time. Defendant must return any Protected Materials to the Defense Team at  
4 the conclusion of any meeting at which defendant reviews the Protected Materials. Defendant may not  
5 take any Protected Materials out of the room in which he is meeting with the Defense Team. Defendant  
6 may not write down or memorialize any PII contained in the Protected Materials. At the conclusion of  
7 any meeting with defendant, the member of the Defense Team present shall take with him or her all  
8 Protected Materials. At no time, under any circumstances, will any Protected Materials be left in the  
9 possession, custody, or control of the defendant, whether or not he is incarcerated, except as provided  
10 below in Paragraphs 15 and 26.

11       15. If, during the pendency of the case, defendant requests a copy of the Protected Materials  
12 from Defense Counsel, Defense Counsel may provide a copy of the Protected Materials to the defendant  
13 provided that Defense Counsel ensures that all PII contained in the Protected Materials is fully redacted  
14 and the copy bears the inscription as described in Paragraph 22. If Defense Counsel provides a redacted  
15 copy to defendant subject to these conditions, Defense Counsel or a member of the Defense Team must  
16 contemporaneously memorialize in writing that it has fully redacted PII from the Protected Materials  
17 and complied with this Order. This written certification need not be disclosed or produced to the United  
18 States unless ordered by the Court. If at any time Defense Counsel provides Protected Materials to the  
19 defendant, Defense Counsel must also provide a copy of this Order and advise the defendant that he is  
20 bound by the terms of this Order, including the restrictions on use of Protected Materials pursuant to  
21 Paragraph 13. Notwithstanding the above, defense counsel may not release custody of any of the  
22 following to the defendant: reports of witness statements, written witness statements, search warrant  
23 affidavits, pen-trap applications, and tax records

24       16. The Defense Team may review Protected Materials with a witness or potential witness in  
25 this case, including the defendant, subject to the requirement above that a member of the Defense Team  
26 must be present if Protected Materials are being shown to the defendant. Before being shown any  
27 portion of the Protected Materials, however, any witness or potential witness, including the defendant,  
28 must be informed of the existence of the Protective Order and given a copy of the Protective Order. No

1 witness or potential witness may retain Protected Materials, or any copy thereof, after his or her review  
2 of those materials with the Defense Team is complete.

3       17. This Order does not limit employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the  
4 Eastern District of California from disclosing the Protected Materials to members of the United States  
5 Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies, the Court, and defense.

6       18. Defense Counsel shall advise the United States with reasonable notice of any subpoenas,  
7 document requests, or claims for access to the Protected Materials by third parties if Defense Counsel is  
8 considering disseminating any of the Protected Materials to a third party, in order that the United States  
9 may take action to resist or comply with such demands as it may deem appropriate.

10       **D. Ensuring Security of Protected Materials**

11       19. The Defense Team shall maintain the Protected Materials safely and securely, and shall  
12 exercise reasonable care in ensuring the security and confidentiality of the Protected Materials by storing  
13 the Protected Materials in a secure place, such as a locked office, or otherwise secure facility where  
14 visitors are not left unescorted.

15       20. A copy of the Protective Order must be stored with the discovery, in paper form and  
16 electronically.

17       21. To the extent that Protected Materials, or any copies or reproductions thereof, are stored  
18 electronically, the Protected Materials will be stored on a password-protected or encrypted storage  
19 medium, including a password-protected computer, or device. Encryption keys must be stored securely  
20 and not written on the storage media that they unlock.

21       22. If a member of the Defense Team makes, or causes to be made, any further copies of any  
22 of the Protected Materials, Defense Counsel will ensure that the following notation is written, stamped  
23 or inscribed on whatever folder, container, or media contains the copies: "PROTECTED MATERIALS-  
24 SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER." For example, if Defense Counsel makes a copy of a disc or  
25 physical file containing Protected Materials, the duplicate disc or file must be encrypted and marked  
26 with the above notation.

27       **E. Filings**

28       23. In the event that a party needs to file Protected Materials containing PII, or materials

1 otherwise identified as containing confidential information of victims, witnesses, or third parties with  
2 the Court, or disclose PII in court filings, the filing should be made under seal as provided for by the  
3 local rules. If the Court rejects the request to file such information under seal, the party seeking to file  
4 such information shall provide advance written notice to the other party to afford such party an  
5 opportunity to object or otherwise respond to such intention. If the other party does not object to the  
6 proposed filing, the party seeking to file such information shall redact the PII or confidential materials  
7 and make all reasonable attempts to limit the divulging of PII or confidential materials.

8           **F.     Conclusion of Prosecution**

9           24.    The provisions of this Order shall not terminate at the conclusion of this prosecution. All  
10 Protected Materials subject to the Protective Order maintained in the Defense Team's files shall remain  
11 subject to the Protective Order unless and until such Order is modified by the Court.

12           25.    Upon final disposition of the case, including exhaustion of direct and collateral appellate  
13 proceedings, Defense Counsel shall return the Protected Materials to the government, or certify in  
14 writing that the Protected Materials have been destroyed. If any Protected Materials are used as defense  
15 exhibits, they shall be maintained with government exhibits so long as those are required to be  
16 maintained.

17           26.    If, upon final disposition of the case, defendant requests a copy of the Protected Materials  
18 from Defense Counsel, Defense Counsel may provide a copy of the Protected Materials to the defendant  
19 provided that Defense Counsel ensures that all PII contained in the Protected Materials is fully redacted  
20 and the copy bears the inscription as described in Paragraph 22. If Defense Counsel provides a redacted  
21 copy to defendant subject to the above conditions, Defense Counsel or a member of the Defense Team  
22 must contemporaneously attest in writing that it has fully redacted PII from the Protected Materials and  
23 complied with this Order. This written certification need not be disclosed or produced to the United  
24 States unless ordered by the Court.

25           **G.     Termination or Substitution of Counsel**

26           27.    In the event that there is a substitution of counsel prior to final disposition of the case,  
27 new counsel of record must join this Protective Order before any Protected Materials may be transferred  
28 from the undersigned defense counsel to the new defense counsel. New defense counsel then will

1 become Defense Counsel for purposes of this Protective Order, and become Defense Team's custodian  
2 of materials, and shall then become responsible, upon the conclusion of appellate and post-conviction  
3 proceedings, for complying with the provisions set forth in Paragraph 26 above. All members of the  
4 Defense Team, whether current or past counsel, are at all times subject to the Protective Order and are  
5 not relieved by termination of representation or conclusion of the prosecution.

#### **H. Modification of Order**

7        28. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking modification to the Order or  
8 from objecting to discovery it otherwise believes to be improper. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any  
9 party from seeking a more restrictive protective order with regard to particular discovery items.

## I. Violation of Order

11        29. Any person who willfully violates this Order may be held in contempt of court and  
12 maybe subject to monetary or other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Court. This provision does  
13 not expand or narrow the Court's contempt powers.

#### **J. Application of Laws**

15        30. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect or comment on the admissibility or  
16 discoverability of the Protected Materials.

17       31. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect the application or and the parties'  
18 compliance with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Local Rules, and applicable statutes.

Dated: November 20, 2020

McGREGOR W. SCOTT  
United States Attorney

By: /s/ CHRISTOPHER S. HALES  
CHRISTOPHER S. HALES  
MIRIAM R. HINMAN  
Assistant United States Attorneys

Dated: November 20, 2020

By: /s/ DAVID FISCHER  
DAVID FISCHER  
Counsel for Defendant  
MATTHEW M. PIERCEY

## **FINDINGS AND ORDER**

The Court having read and considered the Stipulation and Joint Request for a Protective Order, which this Court incorporates by reference in full, hereby finds that GOOD CAUSE exists to enter the above Order.

## IT IS SO FOUND AND ORDERED.

Dated: November 20, 2020

Carol H. Delaney

CAROLYN K. DELANEY  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE